

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE  
EEO UPDATE NO. 27 - JANUARY 14, 2004

The Holiday observance for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held on Monday, 19 January 2004 and will mark the 75th Birthday of Dr. King and the 18th Anniversary of this National Holiday. The theme for the 2004 celebration is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A Day On, Not a Day Off!" Dr. King dedicated his life to improving the lives of others. Through his example, he taught the values of courage, truth, justice, compassion, dignity, humility, and service that so radiantly defined his character and leadership. In April of 1968, he said, "Let us rise up...with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation." These characteristics of readiness and determination are exhibited each day throughout the Navy's nearly 400,000 member active duty force and in the actions of the thousands of Sailors in the Naval Reserve. In the words of FORCM(SW/AW) Karen H. O'Connor, COMNAVSURFPAC Force Master Chief, "Martin Luther King's lessons transcend color - they taught us to value each other's differences and to accept each other for who we are as individuals. Our Navy is the strongest in the world because our teamwork is based on this same foundation."

Planned events include the following:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Luncheon, Naval Station, Norfolk on 15 January 2004, 11:00 a.m., Breezy Point Officer's Club. Speaker: Ms. Louisa Strayhorn. Cost is \$10.00. Call 444-1852 for more information.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Breakfast, 15 January 2004, 7:00 a.m. and program at NWS Cheatham Annex, Galley, featuring the Rising Sun Baptist Church Inspiration Choir. Speaker: Rev. Collins, Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Breakfast Cost: \$1.70.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., March, 15 January 2004, 6:00 p.m. and a time of commemoration at L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center, Norfolk, VA, 6:30 p.m. Cost: Free.

Urban League's Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Breakfast, 19 January 2004, 7:30 a.m. at Virginia Wesleyan College Convocation Center. Speaker: The Honorable Bobby Scott. Cost: \$25.00.

Portsmouth Chapter, NAACP Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Service, 19 January 2004, 10:00 a.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Portsmouth, VA. Speaker: Rev. James Wynn, Cost: Free.

EVMS' Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Program, 19 January 2004, 6:00 p.m. at EVMS' Lewis Hall Auditorium. Speaker: Dr. L. D. Britt. Cost: Free.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Birthday Observance, 21 January 2004, a celebration cake at NASO Dam Neck Annex Galley by the Dunes at 11:30 a.m., NAS Oceana "Chapel by the Sea", 3:00-4:00 p.m. Speaker: Chaplain Oswald.

Commands are encouraged to sponsor exhibits, publish items of interest in Command bulletins and solicit participation in appropriate observances of Dr. King's birthday.